Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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O 161910Z AUG 78 FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2134

CONFIDENTIAL PRETORIA 4761

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 TAGS: SOPN. SF. US

SUBJECT: SAG REACTION TO AMBASSADOR'S AUGUST 8 SPEECH

REFS: PRETORIA 4596, PRETORIA 4597 ET SEQ.

1. IN WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE VERY MILD PRESENTATION, BRAND FOURIE TOOK JUST A FEW MINUTES OUT OF ABOUT 40-MINUTE DISCUSSION OF OTHER MATTERS THIS MORNING TO REPROACH ME FOR MUCH QUOTED PASSAGE OF AUGUST 8 SPEECH IN WHICH I EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT POLICY WHICH AIMED AT ULTIMATE SITUATION IN WHICH THEREWOULD BE NO BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN COULD ONLY LEAD TO RESISTANCE, GREATER VIOLENCE, CONDITIONS OF CIVIL WAR AND REGIONAL CONFLICT, AND TO THE ULTIMATE INVOLVEMENT OF OUTSIDE POWERS. HE SAID THAT WHILE SAG COULD NOT DICTATE TO ME WHAT MY VIEWS OR THOSE OF MY GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE, IT FEELS THAT SAYING THESE THINGS FROM A PUBLIC PLATFORM IN SOUTH AFRICA CONSTITUTES TAKING PART IN PARTY POLICAL ACTIVITIES (FOURIE AT FIRST USED THE WORD CAMPAIGNING THEN CHANGED IT TO ACTIVITIES) WHICH IS REGARDED AS DIRECT INTERFERENCE AND AS SUCH IS "RESENTED, TO PUT IT MILDLY." I SAID I TOOK NOTE OF WHAT HE SAID AND ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT MY WISH TO COMMUNICATE TO THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE MEDIA OR BECOME INVOLVED IN PARTY POLITICS. HE SAID NO MORE AND WE WENT ON TO OTHER SUBJECTS. HE WAS FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT AND WHEN MAKING APPOINTMENT FOR CONFIDENTIAL.

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TODAY'S MEETING ACCEPTED DINNER INVITATION FOR NEXT MONTH.

2. IT SEEMS QUITE CLEAR FROM CONNIE MULDER'S SPEECH TO NATAL PARTY CONGRESS AND TRANSVALER EDITORIAL (REPORTED SEPTELS) THAT I HIT ON ISSUE THAT IS CONTROVERSIAL WITHIN NATIONAL PARTY ITSELF. MULDER IS REITERATING HIS LINE ABOUT NO BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS, WHICH MAY BE LITTLE MORE THAN RHETORIC TO STAKE A

CLAIM TO TRUE AFRIKANER CONSERVATISM WITH SOME PRAGMATISM HIDDEN UNDERNEATH, OR MAY INDEED BE AN EXAMPLE OF IDEOLOGICAL RIGIDITY. I SUSPECT A BIT OF THE FORMER IS POSSIBLE, BUT IF THE NATIONAL PARTY PERSISTS IN THE HARD LINE OF IDEOLOGICAL RIGIDITY, THEN MY REMARKS MAY PROVE TO BE TRAGICALLY TRUE OVER THE LONG RUN WHETHER THEY WERE AS DIPLOMATICALLY QUALIFIED AS THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN OR NOT. EDMONDSON

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